



Press Release

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For Immediate Release

#02-11

June 17, 2002

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Preliminary Damage Assessment Scheduled to Determine Impact of Spring Storms

Helena, Mont - Representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will arrive in Montana to conduct preliminary damage assessments (PDAs) of the areas impacted by last week's spring storm and consequential flooding. Initial reports from the affected jurisdictions indicate damages may be significant enough to meet established federal guidelines making the state eligible for a presidential declaration.

The assessments will be conducted by three teams. These teams, each consisting of local, state and federal personnel, will be sent out to observe and document the damage. One team will work with the Blackfoot Tribe, one is assigned to the affected utility companies and one will help with the five counties that suffered damages (Glacier, Pondera, Toole, Liberty and Hill).

"At this time, assisting with the recovery efforts is our priority," says Jim Greene, administrator for the disaster and emergency services division. "These teams provide the expertise at all levels of government to best document the damages and determine if assistance is available. If eligible, we can readily provide that assistance."

The total damages will be compiled and evaluated to determine the impact on the state. This information will be used to make a determination on whether the state is eligible for a presidential declaration, making federal assistance available to the affected jurisdictions.

Montana received a presidential declaration last June due to the unseasonable weather events that brought heavy, wet snows, hitting Gallatin, Missoula, and Powell counties

particularly hard. These snows toppled trees and knocked over power lines. The storms resulted in power outages, road closures, and consequent debris removal problems.

For more information, contact Monique T. Lay, PIO at 841-3911.

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